
**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
THE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
April 12, 2005**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON BOARDS,
COMMISSIONS, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

ISSUE #1: Should the continued licensing and regulation of the Behavioral Science professions be continued, and be regulated by an independent board rather than by a bureau under the Department?

Recommendation #1: *The Joint Committee recommends the continued regulation of the Behavioral Science professions and that a board structure be maintained.*

Comments: The Department made no recommendation regarding the continuation of the Board of Behavioral Sciences and indicated instead that it is generally supportive of boards being sunsetted and their programs being incorporated into the Department, and therefore that it will not be making recommendations regarding this board and would like to further discuss this issue with the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee is, however, recommending at this time both the continued regulation and licensing of the Behavioral Sciences professions and the continuation of the Board of Behavioral Sciences. This Board regulates professionals who generally perform counseling services, but are not registered psychologists or psychiatrists. The Board has three categories of licensees: Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs); Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs); and Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEPs). The mission of the Board is to protect consumers by establishing and maintaining standards for competent and ethical behavior by the professionals under its jurisdiction. In addition to MFTs, LCSWs and LEPs, the Board registers MFT interns (IMFs), Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASWs), and continuing education providers (PCEs). The Board develops and administers written examinations for its licensing programs, administers a continuing education program for professional competency, develops regulatory standards, and conducts an enforcement program to investigate consumer complaints. It imposes disciplinary action against licensees and registrants who violate the law. Because of the possibility of serious and enduring harm to clients, it is particularly important that the state regulate mental health providers such as those licensed by this Board.